Claims

1. A mobile telephone short text messaging method for transmitting short text messages of a message thread between short text messaging devices of an originating user and a recipient user, the originating user beginning the message thread with an originating short text message that is directed to the recipient user, the method comprising:

transmitting the originating short text message from the short text messaging device of the originating user to a short text messaging application;

correlating at the short text messaging application a message thread identifier with the originating short text message and a messaging address for the short text messaging device of the originating user;

transmitting the originating short text message to the short text messaging device of the recipient user and transmitting therefrom a reply short text message to the short text messaging application;

identifying the message thread identifier and the messaging address for the short text messaging device of the originating user corresponding to the reply short text message; and

transmitting reply short text message to the short text messaging device of the originating user.

2. The method of claim 1 in which the short text messaging device of the recipient user is uniquely identified by a short text message address, a message destination tag being included with the originating short text message and identifying the recipient user with an indication other than the short text message address.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising storing with the short text messaging application the message destination tag in association with short text message address of the short text messaging device of the recipient user.

4. The method of claim 2 in which the message destination tag is included in the originating short text message sent by the originating user.

5. The method of claim 4 in which the message destination tag is located in a predefined location in the originating short text message.

6. The method of claim 1 in which the short text messaging device of the originating user is uniquely identified by a short text message address, the message thread identifier being included with the reply short text message and allowing identification of the originating user with an indication other than the short text message address of the originating user messaging device.

7. The method of claim 1 in which at least one of the short text messaging devices of the originating and recipient users is a mobile telephone.

8. In a short text messaging system of a mobile telephone network having a short message service center that directs short text messages between short text messaging devices, the improvement comprising:

a short text messaging application that is in a computer readable medium and that correlates a message thread identifier with short text messages transmitted between short text messaging devices of an originating user and a recipient user, the originating user beginning a message thread with an originating short text message that is directed to the recipient user, the message thread identifier identifying messaging addresses for the short text messaging devices of the originating and recipient users.

9. The system of claim 8 in which the short text messaging device of a recipient user is uniquely identified by a short text message address, a message destination tag being included with the originating short text message and identifying the recipient user with an indication other than the short text message address.

10. The system of claim 9 further comprising software that is in a computer readable medium for storing with the short text messaging application the message destination tag in association with short text message address of the short text messaging device of the recipient user.

11. The system of claim 8 in which the short text messaging device of the originating user is uniquely identified by a short text message address, the message thread identifier being included with the reply short text message and allowing identification of the originating user with an indication other than the short text message address.

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12. The system of claim 11 further comprising software in a computer readable medium for storing with the short text messaging application the message originating tag in association with short text message address of the short text messaging devices of the originating user.

13. The media of claim 8 in which short text messaging application resides in a network portal that is accessible by a short message service center.

14. The system of claim 8 in which the message thread identifier correlates short text messages transmitted between the short text messaging devices of the originating user and plural recipient users.

15. In computer readable medium, a short text messaging application data structure supporting identification of a thread of short text messages in a mobile telephone network short text messaging system, comprising:

a short text message thread identifier that identifies the thread of short text messages; and

an identifier for an originating message user; and

an identifier for a recipient message user.

16. The medium of claim 15 in which the identifiers for the originating and recipient message users correspond to short message addresses for short text message devices associated with the originating and recipient message users.

17. The medium of claim 15 in which the identifier for the originating message user includes an originating tag and a separate short message address for a short text message device associated with the originating user.

18. The medium of claim 15 in which the identifier for the recipient message user includes a destination tag and a separate short message address for a short text message device associated with the recipient user.

19. In a mobile telephone network short text messaging system, a method of associating a message from a message originator having a first network address with plural message recipients that each have a unique network address to facilitate replies to the message, comprising:

generating a message thread identifier that identifies the message and is of fewer digits than the first network address;

populating a data store with association information that includes the message thread identifier in correlation with the first network address and the unique network address of each of the plural message recipients;

transmitting the message to each of the plural message recipients with the message thread identifier; and

transmitting a reply message from at least one of the plural message recipients according to the message thread identifier so that the reply message is delivered to the message originator and each of the other message recipients by virtue of the association information in the data store.